

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#14  
MDJ  
5-15-02

Applicant: Kelan C. Silvester      § Group Art Unit: 2645  
Serial No.: 09/189,250      § Examiner: A. Hoosain  
Filed: November 10, 1998      § Attorney Docket: INTL-0154-US  
For: Message Handling System      § P6599

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Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington DC 20231

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REPLY BRIEF

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Answer, the Applicant provides the following reply to the new arguments raised for the first time by the Answer.

Specifically, the Examiner now contends that the claims calling for indicating information about the subject matter of a message can be read on anything providing any information about the nature of the call. Just because the word "nature" was utilized in the specification, the Examiner attempts to redefine the term "subject matter" to include any information about the call. The definition of subject matter of the call is clear and does not mean how urgent is the call. It is contrary to well accepted English usage to suggest that an indication of the urgency of the call tells the subject matter of the call.

Clearly, the Examiner is grasping at straws here. The term subject matter is clear. It includes the nature of the call, but not how urgent is the call. It includes the subject matter of the call, not its urgency. Therefore, merely providing information about the urgency of the call does not meet the claimed invention.

Date of Deposit: 04-23-02  
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Cynthia L. Hayden  
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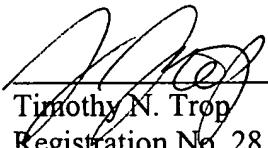
The problem solved with the claimed invention is when you have a voice mail that has no subject provided with it, how do you convert the message into text and extract the subject? The Applicant solved this problem and the cited reference never even addressed it.

To suggest that simply converting the indicated urgency of the call to text provides a subject matter for the call is to beg the entire invention and to distort normal English usage.

Therefore, the rejection should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/22/02

  
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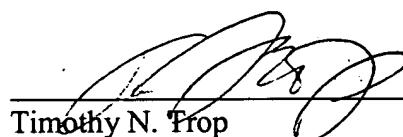
BRIEF TRANSMITTAL

Sir:

Transmitted herewith in triplicate is the Reply Brief in this application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on October 9, 2001.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: April 23, 2002

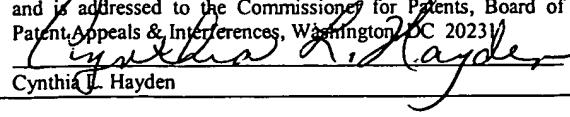


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Cynthia L. Hayden